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3/29/03

Atty. Docket No.: 22620/1222

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of:	Murchie, et al.
Serial No.:	09/839,649
Filed:	April 19, 2001
Entitled:	"Assay for Identification of a Test Compound"

Examiner:	S. Chunduru
Group Art Unit:	1637
Conf. No.:	2120

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Mary Wilson  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Person Mailing Paper

*Mary Wilson*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Person Mailing Paper

**Box: AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231**

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Sir:

This is filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed November 19, 2002 in the above-noted U.S. Patent Application. Kindly enter the following proposed Amendments and Remarks.

In the Claims:

Please replace claim 1 with the following amended claim 1.

1. (Amended) A method for determining whether a test compound binds to a target RNA, the method comprising the steps of:

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(a) contacting said test compound with said target RNA and an RNA-modifying enzyme that covalently alters an existing base in said target RNA; and

(b) detecting the modification of said target RNA by said enzyme and comparing the amount of modification detected to that of a standard, wherein said comparing determines whether said test compound binds to said target RNA.



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TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Enclosed for filing in the above-identified patent application, please find the following documents:

1. Response to Final Office Action mailed November 19, 2002;
2. Petition for One Months' Extension of Time;
3. Check in the amount of \$55.00 for the requisite fee; and
4. Return Post Card.

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment in the total fees to Deposit Account No. 16-0085, Reference No. 22620/1222.

A duplicate of this transmittal letter is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 17, 2003

Kathleen Williams  
Name: Kathleen Williams  
Registration No.: 34,380  
Customer No.: 29933  
Palmer & Dodge LLP  
111 Huntington Avenue  
Boston, MA 02199-7613  
Tel: 617-239-0100

Mark J. FitzGerald  
Reg. No. 45,928 for  
Kathleen Williams

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